

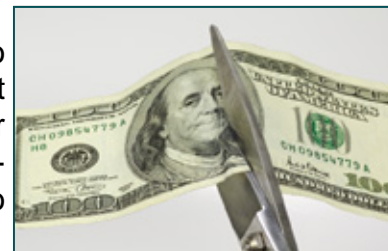
**SPECIAL EDITION**

**FY 2008-09 CORRECTIONS BUDGET BILL  
HEADS TO THE GOVERNOR**

In the final legislative step of the budget process, the Michigan Legislature has passed the Fiscal Year (FY) 2008-09 Corrections budget and sent it to Governor Jennifer Granholm for her approval. The final step will be having the legislation signed into law by Governor Granholm. There are aspects of the bill that she can still veto, but any line item vetoes are unlikely to result in significant changes to the budget bill as passed by the Legislature.

The budget includes \$50 million in efficiencies and savings throughout the Department. Some of the key components resulting in the \$50 million savings in this proposed budget include:

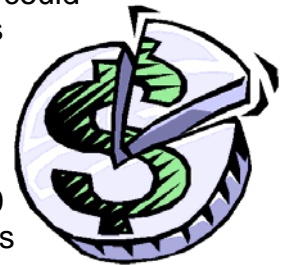
- Alternate work schedules will be piloted saving \$200,000.
- Central Office funding is slashed by \$800,000.
- The Legislature has required the Department to convene workgroups to identify operational changes other than personnel reductions that result in full-year savings of \$6.2 million related to the centralization of prisoner stores and the regionalization of business office and warehouse operations. These workgroups must report their findings to the Legislature no later than October 1, 2008.
- HMO contract savings realized through statewide efficiencies within HMO contracts.
- Other departmental efficiencies will result in \$3.2 million in savings. These include volume purchases, the use of opportunity purchases and other efficiencies.
- Health Care savings resulting in \$4 million in savings
- Elimination of two custody FTEs at most correctional facilities excluding camps saving \$6.4 million.
- \$10.8 million in saving because of a reduced need to fund additional prison beds. Re-entry initiatives and ongoing work with the Council of State Governments to reduce prison commitments allow for the savings.
- Closing Robert Scott Correctional Facility and consolidating delivery of services to women prisoners in one primary location saving \$12.1 million in FY 2009.
- Changing the staffing relief factor from 1.8 to 1.75 resulting in \$15.7 million in savings. A National Institute of Corrections (NIC) study suggested that facilities use a 1.7 relief factor to determine facility staffing requirements. The Department, currently using a 1.8 relief factor, studied leave usages



and vacancies during FY 2007 and is considering a 1.75 relief factor, based on a variety of factors including sick and annual leave usage and overtime. Layoffs would not be expected from this change because affected employees would be placed in vacant positions.

Some areas where funding is maintained or enhanced include:

- Community and residential programming including substance abuse treatment programming will increase \$750,000 based on current year funding.
- Training will be funded at \$13.31 million for the hire of up to 600 new officers.
- An intensive probation pilot program is currently funded at \$980,000.
- 500 new GPS tethers and parole/probation officers to supervise offenders on the new active GPS tethers is funded at \$3.3 million.
- Phone fees and commissions for prisoner telephone calls are eliminated.
- The Special Alternative Incarceration (SAI) program will be expanded to allow second-time offenders to participate in the program. The program must include a Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative (MPRI) component for all offenders. This will save the need for about 400 new beds in FY 2009. However, this law was amended to include a sunset provision which could eliminate SAI completely by September 30, 2009 if an independent study does not support the effectiveness in several areas including a reduction in recidivism. The legislature would have to vote to keep the program operational at that point.



If this budget bill is enacted into law, the Department will have saved over \$610 million since 2002. Staff throughout the Department know how difficult this process is because they feel the results first-hand. This is another corrections budget where positions will be eliminated and services will be centralized and regionalized. However, we must continue to operate more efficiently and find ways to save money while running safe and secure correctional facilities and protecting citizens from offenders under community supervision.

The Department will continue working with all interested parties to find real long-term solutions that are good public policy and uphold the will of the people to provide a safe and secure correctional environment that translates into safer neighborhoods and better citizens.